


Claims 1 to 16 (cancelled)

Claim 17 (new): A method for screening medical cases comprising the steps of:

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- a.) storing a multiplicity of medical cases all of which contain a group of images of a particular portion of a patient's anatomy, the views of the images of all groups being the same;
 - b.) establishing a common workflow for all medical cases, for viewing by a user, of an ordered sequence of preselected specified images derived from the stored group of images of each said medical case that is representative of the particular portion of a patient's anatomy being screened, the specification of said specified preselected images being the same for all medical cases with all specified images being viewed in the same order;
 - c.) coupling a user interface to the workflow whereby a user can control stepping through the ordered sequence of preselected specified images for viewing one by one;
 - d.) preprogramming the common workflow to establish said ordered sequence of said preselected specified images derived from the stored images of each medical case;
 - e.) displaying, for viewing by a user, each ordered sequence of said preselected specified images derived from the stored images of each said medical case, in order, one after the other; and
 - f.) controlling the stepping through the ordered sequence of said preselected specified images derived from the stored images of each medical case by a user initiating only a single action input to move the workflow from each present step of viewing the current specified image to each next step of the ordered sequence to view the next succeeding specified image.

Claim 18 (new): A method for screening medical cases according to claim 17 including the further steps of providing the user interface with a set of icons indicative of images derivable from the group of stored images of each medical

case, and effecting the preprogramming step d) by the user selecting a sub-set of icons to specify the ordered sequence of preselected specified images.

Claim 19 (new): A method for screening medical cases according to claim 18 wherein each icon of the set of icons specifies one of an image, an image view, an image resulting from processing of an image according to a preselected algorithm, a tiling of images, activation of the marking of a region of interest, entry of a diagnosis, entry of an annotation, an image resulting from a computer aided diagnosis function performed on an image, and activation of the display of computer assisted diagnosis markers.

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Claim 20 (new): A method for screening medical cases according to claim 18 including the further step of providing a screen coupled to the user interface, displaying the set of icons on the screen, providing on the screen a sequence bar, and carrying out the preprogramming step d) by drag-and-drop of the icons on the sequence bar.

Claim 21 (new): A method for screening medical cases according to claim 17 wherein the single action input of step f) is effected by one of pressing a key, touching a screen at a designated point, and speaking to a speech recognition component.

Claim 22 (new): A method for screening medical cases according to claim 17 including the further step of highlighting an image being viewed by a graphical input tool included in the user interface.

Claim 23 (new): A method for screening medical cases according to claim 17 including the further step of entering and storing an annotation for one of a medical case or an image being viewed.

Claim 24 (new): A method for screening medical cases according to claim 17 including the further step of maintaining a stack of medical cases in the workflow.

Claim 25 (new): Apparatus for screening medical cases comprising:

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- a.) a store for storing a multiplicity of medical cases all of which contain a group of images of a particular portion of a patient's anatomy, the views of the images of all groups being the same;
 - b.) a common workflow for all medical cases, for viewing by a user, of an ordered sequence of preselected specified images derived from the stored group of images of each said medical case that is representative of the particular portion of a patient's anatomy being screened, the specification of said specified preselected images being the same for all medical cases with all specified images being viewed in the same order;
 - c.) a user interface coupled to the workflow whereby a user can control stepping through the ordered sequence of preselected specified images for viewing one by one;
 - d.) a preprogramming control for controlling the common workflow to establish said ordered sequence of said preselected specified images derived from the stored images of each medical case;
 - e.) a display for displaying, for viewing by a user, each ordered sequence of said preselected specified images derived from the stored images of each said medical case, in order, one after the other; and
 - f.) a controller for controlling the stepping through the ordered sequence of said preselected specified images derived from the stored images of each medical case by a user initiating only a single action input to move the workflow from each present step of viewing the current specified image to each next step of the ordered sequence to view the next succeeding specified image.

Claim 26 (new): Apparatus for screening medical cases according to claim 25 wherein the user interface is provided with a set of icons indicative of images derivable from the group of stored images of each medical case, and effecting the preprogramming step e) by the user selecting a sub-set of icons to specify the ordered sequence of preselected specified images.

Claim 27 (new): Apparatus for screening medical cases according to claim 26 wherein each icon of the set of icons specifies one of an image, an image view, an image resulting from processing of an image according to a preselected algorithm, a tiling of images, activation of the marking of a region of interest, entry of a diagnosis, entry of an annotation, an image resulting from a computer aided diagnosis function performed on an image, and activation of the display of computer assisted diagnosis markers.

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Claim 28 (new): Apparatus for screening medical cases according to claim 26 including a screen coupled to the user interface for displaying the set of icons on the screen, a sequence bar on the screen and whereby the preprogramming is carried out by drag-and-drop of the icons on the sequence bar.

Claim 29 (new): Apparatus for screening medical cases according to claim 25 wherein the single action input is effected by one of pressing a key, touching a screen at a designated point, and speaking to a speech recognition component.

Claim 30 (new): Apparatus for screening medical cases according to claim 25 including a graphical input tool included in the user interface for highlighting an image being viewed.

Claim 31 (new): Apparatus for screening medical cases according to claim 25 including an annotation component for entering and storing an annotation for one of a medical case or an image being viewed.

Claim 32 (new): Apparatus for screening medical cases according to claim 25 wherein the workflow maintains a stack of medical cases.

Claim 33 (new): Apparatus for screening medical cases according to claim 25 wherein the single action input is used to step from one medical case to the next succeeding medical case.

Claim 34 (new): Apparatus for screening medical cases according to claim 25 wherein pointers are provided to indicate which medical case and which specified image of the ordered sequence of said preselected specified images is being currently viewed by a user.

Claim 35 (new): Apparatus for screening medical cases according to claim 25 wherein The preprogramming control is activated via the user interface.

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Claim 36 (new): A method for screening medical cases according to claim 17 including the further steps of storing the preprogrammed ordered sequence of step e) and a user ID.

Claim 37 (new): A method for screening medical cases according to claim 17 including the further step of initiating via the user interface one of editing the preprogramming of the ordered sequence and moving to the next medical case for viewing.

Claim 38 (new): A method for screening medical cases according to claim 17 including the further step of providing an indication of which medical case and which specified image of the ordered sequence of said preselected specified images is being currently viewed by a user.

Claim 39 (new): A method for screening medical cases according to claim 17 including the further step of conducting the preprogramming step via a user interface.
